

Holmes nets three in five minutes for Wycombe

Sports Mail Special Report

WYCOMBE WANDS. 6 : ST. ALBANS ... 0

HOLMES, back as leader of the Wycombe Wanderers' attack, scored a hat-trick in a five-minute spell in the first half of their Isthmian League match against St. Albans City, at Wycombe today. Wycombe won 6-0.

Wycombe Wanderers: Brown; Beck, Atkins; Thomas, Fisher, D. Worley; Rockell, L. Worley, Holmes, Bates, Tomlin.

St. Albans City: Locker; Clarke, Colman; Southern, Walby, McLean; Smith, Desmond, Tomlinson, Tucker, Evans.

Referee: Mr. L. Cleversley (Wimbleton).

Slow to start, Wycombe came under lively pressure early on and a long range shot by right half Southern swept just wide.

When Wycombe hit back Len Worley hit a short-range drive which the right back, Clarke, was a little lucky to stop on the goal-line with the goalkeeper out of position.

A few minutes later Bates missed a sitter after Rockell had cleverly drawn the goalkeeper out of position. Then Worley missed another easy chance from a Rockell pass.

SPECTACULAR SAVE

At the other end, Brown ran out to make a spectacular diving save from right winger Smith and a few minutes later he threw himself at the feet of centre forward Tomlinson when he broke through on his own.

Again Wycombe took up the running, with Rockell in particularly good form, and after 25 minutes HOLMES, after heading against the crossbar in one attack, put the home side ahead from a pass by Beck.

A few minutes later, HOLMES scored again with another neat header from a free kick by Tomlin and within a

minute he completed his hat-trick from a short pass by Worley.

Half-time: Wycombe Wanderers 3, St. Albans 0.

Again it was St. Albans who set the pace at the start of the second half. A shot from the speedy Smith went over the crossbar.

But their rally was short-lived and after eight minutes ROCKELL added a fourth for Wycombe after Worley had hit the crossbar with a long-range drive.

SWIFT RAIDS

Wycombe's superiority was underlined in many swift, purposeful raids, though sometimes too much short-passing on the heavy ground held them up at the crucial moment.

One sparkling move by Worley, Rockell and Holmes brought a brilliant save by Locker from Holmes.

A few minutes later TOMLIN, who was in excellent form, claimed Wycombe's fifth from a neat Rockell pass.

Only Smith looked like threatening Wycombe's goal in St. Albans' sporadic raids, which weakened after left winger Evans had gone off with a cut face.

As Wycombe continued to attack strongly BATES added a sixth in the 73rd minute.

RESULT:

WYCOMBE WAN. 6
ST. ALBANS 0

SCOT HOLMES HITS THREE FOR WYCOMBE

Wycombe W. 6 St. Albans 0
NINETEEN-YEAR-OLD Tommy Holmes, a gangling Scot, who has attracted the interest of several professional clubs, was Wycombe's hero in this Isthmian League game.

Recalled to lead the attack after several weeks out of the game with injury, Holmes virtually settled the issue with a brilliant hat-trick in less than six minutes midway through the first-half after the Wanderers had exasperated their supporters with a series of missed chances.

With Rockell and Worley again in sparkling form on the Wycombe right wing, the shaky St. Albans defence was riddled repeatedly, but Wycombe were off-target until Holmes changed it all with his three-in-a-hurry 30 minutes after the start.

The first came from a pass by right-back Beck; the second, from a free-kick by Tomlin, and the third from a short-range pass from Worley.

St. Albans hit back more boldly for a spell in the second-half, but there was no holding this vastly improved Wycombe side, for whom Rockell soon added the fourth and Tomlin a fifth.

Then luckless St. Albans were reduced to 10 men, when left-winger Evans had been taken to hospital with a cut eye and Wycombe romped home with another goal from Bates.